



COTTER
SCHOOLS

Academic Course Catalog
2024-2025

Cotter Schools
Grades 7-12

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MISSION

Cotter Schools challenges students to achieve their full potential and use their lives in service of others.

As a Catholic learning community, we believe:

- *God is present in all creation.*
- *Each person is valuable and deserves respect.*
- *Education prepares people to build a better world.*
- *In community, everyone grows.*

Core Values: *Community * Faith * Service * Respect*

COTTER GRADUATE PROFILE

Men and Women of Intellectual Competence

Cotter Schools graduates are problem solvers who think critically and creatively. They are young men and women who are communicators, collaborators, and cooperative learners. Cotter graduates are lifelong learners who are curious about the world around them and the future.

Men and Women of Health and Wholeness

Cotter Schools graduates are aware of healthy habits of living such as mindfulness, fitness and nutrition and are formed in the use of the tools for following through on those habits.

Men and Women with an Appreciation of the Arts

Cotter Schools graduates have an appreciation of beauty and the arts (performing, instrumental, vocal, visual) and recognize the importance of the aesthetic in their personal lives and in the world around them.

Men and Women of Faith, Compassion and Respect

Cotter Schools graduates have an appreciation of a relationship with God and have respect for and knowledge of Catholic and Christian beliefs and practices. Cotter graduates understand the life-changing effects of compassion on themselves and witness to this through respect for others.

Men and Women of Service and Justice

Cotter Schools graduates engage in a lifetime of service; they choose to do the right and just thing in all situations and mentor others in doing the same.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a diploma from Cotter Schools, each student must complete the required credits of academic study and eighty (80) hours of Community Service during grades 9-12. See Program Scheduling and listings under each department for specific courses required for graduation.

English	4.0 Credits
Health*	0.5 Credit
Mathematics (including Algebra 2)	3.0 Credits
Physical Education**	0.5 Credit
Religion	4.0 Credits
Science	3.0 Credits
Social Studies	4.0 Credits
Visual & Performing Arts	1.0 Credit
World Language	2.0 Credits
Electives	6.5 Credits
Senior Capstone	0.25 Credits
Community Service	80 hours (10 hours per semester)

Credits required to graduate: 24.75 Credits

*Health - 0.5 credits is required to fulfill graduation requirements. To fulfill this requirement students will follow a hybrid curriculum over the course of their 9th and 10th grade year.

**Physical Education - 0.5 credit is required to fulfill graduation requirements. To fulfill this requirement, students may take the Lifetime Fitness course, Strength Training course OR participate in two different sports/marching band seasons at Cotter before senior year.

It is the expectation that students are registered for a full class load. Students should use their elective hours to explore new subjects or gain further knowledge in a subject that they are already taking. To request an Academic Resource Hour, students are required to complete an Academic Resource Hour Request Form which can be found in the Principal's Office.

Community Service Requirement: Grades 9-12

A foundational principle embraced at Cotter Schools is that each person is intrinsically good and is loved by God. This principle motivates us to serve others. The Community Service component of the Cotter educational experience allows students to see first-hand this truth of our humanity. Cotter students have much to offer, and the community service program provides creative channels for students to serve and give of themselves for the betterment of their community.

All Cotter High School students are expected to complete ten (10) hours of community service per semester for a minimum of 20 hours annually, with at least one hour in service to the local or global community for 9th and 10th graders and at least two hours in service to the local or global community for 11th and 12th graders.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM SCHEDULING BY YEAR TO MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman Program

English 9: Literature and Composition	1.0 Credit
Science 9: Physics	1.0 Credit
Religion 9: Introduction to Sacred Scriptures	1.0 Credit
Social Studies 9: World History	1.0 Credit
Mathematics	1.0 Credit
Visual/Performing Arts	1.0 Credit
World Language (require at least 2 credits)	1.0 Credit
Community Service	20 Hours

Sophomore Program

English 10: Written Communication & Oral Communication	1.0 Credit
Science 10: Biology	1.0 Credit
Religion 10: The New Testament: The Mission of Jesus Christ & The Church: Its Signs and Symbols	1.0 Credit
Social Studies 10: Human Geography OR AP Human Geography & Personal Finance	1.0 Credit
Mathematics	1.0 Credit
World Language (required at least 2 credits or through Spanish 3)	1.0 Credit
Electives	1.0 Credit
Community Service	20 Hours

Junior Program

English 11: Research Writing & American Literature OR AP Language & Composition	1.0 Credit
Science: Chemistry, Physics, or AP Physics	1.0 Credit
Social Studies 11: U.S. History OR AP U.S. History	1.0 Credit
Religion 11: Christian Morality: Our Response to God's Love & Social Justice: Responding to the Call of Jesus	1.0 Credit
Mathematics (required at least 3 credits & through Algebra 2)	1.0 Credit
Electives	2.0 Credit
Community Service	20 Hours

Senior Program

English 12: Literature & Composition OR AP Literature & Composition	1.0 Credit
Religion 12: World Religions and Christian Vocations	1.0 Credit
Social Studies 12: Political Science OR AP U.S. Government and Politics & Economics	1.0 Credit
Senior Capstone	0.25 Credit
Electives	4.0 Credit
Community Service	20 Hours

THE ACADEMIC ADVISING OFFICE

- Mrs. Kathleen Klick – Academic Advisor, 453-5000 Ext. 5027, kklick@cotterschools.org
- Mr. Mike Hagarty – Academic Advisor, 453-5000 Ext. 5046, mhagarty@cotterschools.org

Registration and Schedule Changes: Students will be asked to complete their course preferences in the FACTS Family Portal (under student > course selection). Course Registration Sheets can be used as a reference and are linked on the Family Portal. Families are asked to contact the Academic Advising Office with questions. Along with the required and elective courses, students are asked to preference alternate courses that can be used if we cannot place the student in their top choice classes. If the student's preferred courses are granted, the student is expected to take these courses. It is important that students and families take time to select the appropriate classes, as changes to schedules may not be possible at a later date. Students placed in a level that is later deemed to be inaccurate or inappropriate may be adjusted beyond that time based on teacher recommendation. The Academic Advising Office will meet with any student upon request to review and help select the most appropriate courses considering the student's goals and interests.

Dropping a Class: It is important that students commit to the coursework they are selecting at the time of registration. In rare instances, it may be necessary to drop a class. If a student wishes to drop a semester or year long elective course, he/she may do so up until the end of the first week of the class, replacing it with another elective. No student will be able to drop a class without replacing it with another elective.

Online courses and Make-up courses: *Students must take their required courses at Cotter.* If a student fails a required course, the student may repeat the course the following year at Cotter, take an online course, or enroll at the Winona Area Learning Center for summer school. Elective courses may also be taken online through an approved online program. The Academic Advising Office has information on how to apply for these programs.

Academic Resource Center (Grades 9-12)

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) offers academic assistance to students with a variety of needs. Staff is available to work with students in building the skills needed for academic success including the following: study skills, time management, note-taking, organization, and testing strategies. Staff is available to help students with completing assignments, monitoring academic progress, and preparing for tests. The ARC offers a small group environment allowing extended individual attention as needed. Academic Resource Hours will only be scheduled for students that demonstrate a learning need (academic support, PSEO, or online coursework). Students may request an hour in the ARC by submitting an application available from the principal's office.

Earning College Credit: Students may take advanced courses through a variety of programs that, upon successful completion, have the potential to earn college credit.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** These rigorous courses are held at Cotter Schools. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student in late March. In past years, the fee was approximately \$50 per exam. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP exam as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Advising Office if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class, as financial assistance may be available. Depending on the student's score and the college or university that the student attends, college placement or credits may be awarded.
 - AP Human Geography
 - AP U.S. History
 - AP United States Government
 - AP Calculus AB
 - AP Calculus BC
 - AP Literature and Composition
 - AP Language and Composition
 - AP Biology
 - AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
 - AP Computer Science A
- **Minnesota State College Southeast Connect to College Program (C2C):** Students who enroll in these courses are concurrently enrolled in MSC Southeast. The courses are held at Cotter and taught by Cotter instructors with mentorship from a MSC Southeast Faculty Member. While there is a fee that Cotter is required to pay, this college credit-earning option is free to students. C2C credits can only be earned by Junior and Senior students.
 - **Nursing Assistant** - Certified Nursing Assistant Training - 3 crs
 - **Nutrition** - 3 crs
 - **Anatomy and Physiology I & II** - 8 crs
 - **Intro to Literature & Intro to Creative Writing** - AP Lit & Composition - 6 crs
 - **College Writing I & II** - AP Language and Composition - 6 crs
 - **U.S. History: 1865 to Present & U.S. History to 1865** - AP U.S. History - 6 crs
 - **Precalculus** - 3 crs
 - **Calculus I** - AP Calculus AB - 4 crs
 - **Calculus II** - AP Calculus BC - 4 crs
- **Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC):** Students who enroll in this course are concurrently enrolled in Saint Mary's University. The courses are held at Cotter and taught by Cotter instructors, and if students earn a C or better in the class, they receive college credit from Saint Mary's University at a significantly discounted price per credit (approximately \$100 per credit paid by the student).
 - **AP United States Government** - 3 credits
- **Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO):** This program is available to juniors and seniors who are Minnesota residents and meet the eligibility requirements specific to each college. PSEO courses may only be taken on a part-time basis since students are required to take core courses at Cotter. Students should arrange their schedule at Cotter, so that they can take PSEO classes at the beginning or end of the day. Depending on class schedules, students taking a PSEO class may not be able to take certain Cotter classes. Students also need to be sure their PSEO schedule does not overlap with any classes at Cotter. Students will not be able to arrive late or leave early from a Cotter class due to

their PSEO schedule. Students cannot be enrolled in more than 7 classes, so each PSEO class that a student takes will create an academic resource hour in their Cotter schedule. Students may be attending their PSEO classes during their assigned ARC time or using the scheduled time to work on their PSEO classwork. Please note that students will not receive credit twice for the same course material repeated at the college level.

PSEO applications for the fall semester typically need to be completed by May 1st and applications for the spring semester typically need to be completed by November 15th. Students can direct specific questions to Mr. Stevenson in the Academic Resource Center.

Weighted Grading Scale

Advanced Placement (AP) and select C2C courses are given an additional weight according to Table A below. Academic points are earned on a 4.0 grading scale and are divided by the number of attempted credits. This determines the cumulative GPA.

PSEO classes are not given the additional weight and any PSEO classes taken by a student will be added to the Cotter transcript unweighted. Certain exceptions may be made for classes that are beyond the scope that Cotter offers. Students taking these courses should consult with administration prior to enrolling in the course to confirm whether the course will be weighted.

12 Advanced Placement (AP) & select C2C Classes

English
AP Language and Composition - College Writing I & II
AP Literature and Composition - Intro to Literature & Intro to Creative Writing
Mathematics
Pre-Calculus (C2C MATH 1225)
AP Calculus AB - Calculus I (C2C MATH 2440)
AP Calculus BC - Calculus II (C2C MATH 2445)
Science
AP Biology
AP Physics
Anatomy & Physiology I & II (C2C BIOL 2515/2516)
Social Studies
AP Human Geography
AP United States History
AP United States Government and Politics (SMU PACC)
Computer Science
AP Computer Science A

Table A: Weighted Grading Scale

	Unweighted	Weighted
A	4.000	4.400
A-	3.667	4.034
B+	3.333	3.666
B	3.000	3.300
B-	2.667	2.934
C+	2.333	2.566
C	2.000	2.200
C-	1.667	1.834
D+	1.333	1.466
D	1.000	1.100
D-	0.667	0.734
F	0.000	0.000
	0.000	0.000

COTTER HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Department Director: Mr. Andrew Marsolek 507-453-5000 Ext. 5381 amarsolek@cotterschools.org

Foundations of Computer Science – Elective

(Grades 9 - 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

The Introduction to Programming course will immerse students in the world of coding, focusing on the fundamentals of computer science using Python and JavaScript programming languages. This comprehensive program covers the basics of programming structure, control flow, and progresses into object-oriented programming. Students will engage in hands-on activities, creating increasingly complex programs that test their skills. By the end of the course, they will possess the ability to generate math-based programs for solving complex equations and even design their own games. No prior programming knowledge is required, making it an ideal starting point for beginners seeking exposure to both Python and JavaScript languages. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A - Elective

(Grades 10 - 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

The AP Computer Science A course is compatible with those topics that are covered in a typical first semester college course in Computer Science as prescribed by the College Board. Over the course of the year, participants will use the JAVA programming language to solve increasingly complex problems designed to teach students about fundamental programming concepts, data structures, algorithm development, and syntax organization. Additional computer science topics, including basic hardware, surveys of the place of computing in modern society, and ethical computing are featured throughout the course. This course is intended to prepare students for the AP Computer Science A exam and serves both as an introductory course for computer science majors and majors in other disciplines that require significant involvement with programming. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program. **Prerequisite:** Completion of Intro to Computer Science or Teacher Recommendation. All course and test accommodations must be approved by the College Board. Students are selected on the basis of grades and teacher recommendations. Registration capacity: 16 students.

Foundations of Game Development – Elective

(Grades 9 - 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Discover the dynamic world of game development in our Foundations of Game Development course. This project-based experience is designed for high school students eager to delve into the intricacies of 3D modeling and interactive game environments using cutting-edge tools such as Blender and the Unity game engine. Through structured hands-on lessons, students will refine both creative and technological design skills, culminating in the creation of their own immersive game world. By course end, students gain expertise in blockbuster game creation, with the

program serving as a comprehensive guide for cultivating talents and navigating a future in game development. Join us for an exploration extending beyond the classroom, providing a solid foundation for a journey of creativity and innovation in the field. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Digital Media and Marketing (Cross-Listed)

(Grades 9 - 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

Develop a unique blend of creative and technical skills, while exploring the intersection of technology, design, and marketing, covering photo and video editing, website and social content creation, and interactive branding. Students explore ethical dimensions of digital marketing, and showcase their skills through hands-on projects and a final portfolio.

ENGLISH and ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Department Director: Mr. Mike Costello 507-453-5000, Ext. 5103, mcostell@cotterschools.org

The Cotter English Department is dedicated to fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that empowers students to become critical thinkers, effective listeners and communicators, and lifelong learners. Grounded in a passion for literature, language, and creativity, our mission is to cultivate a deep appreciation for the written word and to equip students with the skills necessary for success in school and life.

Cotter High School offers ESL (English as a Second Language) to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs). Skills in the areas of reading and writing, listening and speaking are taught and practiced through thematic, content-based units along with explicit grammar instruction. Various aspects of the target culture will be an integral part of all course units. The Cotter ESL program aims to provide students with level-specific English language tools necessary for academic success while also reinforcing their social and conversational language proficiency.

Required Credits for Graduation – 4.0

English 9, ESL or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Written Comm./Oral Comm., ESL or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Research Writing/American Lit, AP Language & Composition or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Literature & Composition or AP Literature & Composition	1.0 Cr.

ESL II (Low intermediate)

(Grades 9-12)

1.0 credit

ESL II students will continue to focus on vocabulary, grammar and reading comprehension strategies along with written work that is based on thematic units using both fiction and non-fiction materials. Academic language will be used increasingly to facilitate moving into ESL III or Transitional English the following year depending on student skills. We will continue specific vocabulary building lessons and activities based on the VOCABULARY POWER series.

ESL III (high intermediate/ low advanced)

(Grades 9-12)

1.0 credit

At this level of learning English, students are expected to show strong communication skills in spoken and written English. The course content alternates advanced grammar and vocabulary lessons with thematic units using a variety of authentic non-fiction texts as well as short selections of fiction. Students will also be introduced to some basic literary terms and are encouraged to use critical thinking strategies as they respond to a variety of themes and stories. Students will continue their English studies the following year in the Transitional English Course or regular English class depending on academic readiness.

Transitional English

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course provides transition for those students moving from the English as Second Language program to the grade level English classes. English for international students focuses specifically on addressing the unique writing needs and developing the composition skills of students for whom English is not their native language. In addition, this course strengthens the necessary reading comprehension skills and understanding of literary terms required in grade level English classes. Students are placed in transitional English based on their placement testing score and on teacher approval.

English 9: Literature and Composition – Required

(Grade 9)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is a literature-based course that emphasizes developing and extending skills in critical thinking, writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Students are exposed to a variety of classical and contemporary genres: novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction. This includes *Of Mice and Men*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Night*, and Greek mythology. The class lays a foundation of skills that students will need throughout high school such as: study and organizational habits, MLA citations, significant literary terms, literary analysis, close reading, vocabulary, discussion skills, writing essays, grammar and usage.

English 10: Written Communication & Oral Communication – Required

(Grade 10)

Year

1.0 Credit

English 10 is a required full year class made up of two semester courses: Oral Communications and Written Communication. Both these semester courses are designed to improve skills in literature, grammar, writing, and communication with the primary emphasis on literature and speech. The first semester of this course is Oral Communications, a speaking course centered on five different types of speeches to be presented and the study of various classical and recent speeches. A plethora of communication skills will be covered, including: understanding and overcoming stage fright, developing effective listening strategies, conducting interviews, engaging in group conversations and inter vs. intrapersonal communication. Second semester will cover written communication and center on refining the composition and literary skills taught in English 9. Coursework involves an intensive novel study of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, examination of a variety of non-fiction works, including the memoir “Glass Castle,” and analyzing a group of short stories. In addition, students will engage in a mini research writing project as well as student-led literature circles.

English 11: Research Writing /American Literature – Required

(May be replaced by AP Language and Composition)

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is an introduction to academic writing and the world of ideas present in the literary tradition of the United States. Students will discover a wide range of themes and styles in seminal works of American literature. Common texts include *The Great Gatsby*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Into the Wild*, and *The Crucible*. Writings include various forms of expository and argumentative essays. In the second semester, students will write a research paper focusing on a person or event from American history; this is a joint project with the students' Social Studies classes. A focus of all writings in the course will be taking clear positions and supporting them with evidence.

College Writing I & II (C2C - ENGL 1215 & ENGL 2525)

(Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition – Replaces English 11 – Restricted)

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course involves expository writing based on experience, direct observation, research and reading with emphasis on critical thinking skills, rhetorical strategies, and style. Reading critically and writing persuasively from multiple sources is emphasized. Students will evaluate the stylistic, structural and substantive merits of what they read; they will analyze and synthesize various points of view, develop interpretive skills, and employ various critical stances and techniques. Students must write at least one research paper substantially based on the reading of at least one book-length text (assigned to the whole class by the instructor). The text may be fictional, non-fictional, dramatic, or poetic. Students will write at least three academic essays of analysis and/or synthesis.

In the second semester all juniors will write a research paper focusing on a person or event from American history, this is a joint project with the students' Social Studies classes. This course may also be taken for C2C credit through MSC Southeast. See "Earning College Credit" on pages 6-7. Students are selected on the basis of test scores, grades in English, and teacher recommendations. For ELL students a minimum IBT TOEFL score of 100 is required, an SAT writing score of 600, or PSAT writing score of 60. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class.

English 12: Literature and Composition – Required

(May be replaced by AP Literature and Composition)

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

The literary journey of this class will expand on the American experience of junior year English. The readings include a variety of American and world literature, including essays, novels, poems, short stories and plays. These readings will help students to continue developing a sense of our literary heritage while honing reading, discussing and writing skills. An important tool in this process will be an enriched critical vocabulary. Writings will include critical essays, personal narratives, poetry, stories, and editing of scripts. In the first semester, students will write an essay that may be used in the college application process. In the fourth quarter, a research paper and persuasive speech will be completed as part of the senior year capstone project.

Intro to Literature & Intro to Creative Writing (C2C ENGL 1165 & ENGL 1445)

(Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition – Replaces English 12 – Restricted)

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course will serve to introduce the student to various aspects of literature, including its genres (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and/or drama), its formal aesthetic elements (e.g. plot, metaphor, point of view, etc.), and its communication of ideas as they relate to the human condition. This course will serve to introduce the student to the practice of creative writing,

specifically to the techniques involved in writing poetry and short fiction. In addition to writing their own poems and stories, students will read and discuss a number of contemporary examples in these genres.

A research paper and persuasive speech will be completed as part of the senior year capstone project. This course may also be taken for C2C credit through MSC Southeast. See “Earning College Credit” on pages 6-7. Prerequisite: ACT English and Reading test combined sub-scores of 48 or combined sub-scores in Critical Reading and Writing of 1100 on the SAT, and teacher recommendation. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class.

Film Studies: Film as Literature – Elective

(Grades 10-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course will teach students a combination of film form or “language,” film history, and film genre. In keeping with this threefold combination, the core focus and goal of the course will be learning how to actively watch and “read” a film, beyond passively “seeing” it. Students will learn about: the technical aspects such as shots, framing, lighting, scoring, and editing that make films what they are; the influences of film history on contemporary cinema; and genre conventions that inform film narrative and structure. In order to help students see connections and relevance across eras, the course will blend historical and contemporary examples, rather than adopting a strictly chronological approach. Under instructor guidance, students will apply a comparative lens to pair examples of literature that mirror or have influenced film technique or genre.

HEALTH EDUCATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Department Director: Mr. Andrew Marsolek 507-453-5000, Ext. 5381,
amarsolek@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Health and Physical Education Department strives to enthusiastically energize and respectfully challenge students through inclusive, community filled physical activity while fostering lifelong health and wellness decisions.

Required Credits for Graduation – 1.0

Physical Education*

0.5 Credit

Health Education**

0.5 Credit

*Physical Education - Credit to satisfy the PE requirement may be earned by taking either Lifetime Fitness or the Strength Training elective classes anytime during grades 10-12. A student may also earn credit to satisfy the requirement by completing two different sports seasons at Cotter or co-op program with Winona Senior High or two seasons of Marching Band.

**Health - 0.5 credits is required to fulfill graduation requirements. To fulfill this requirement students will follow a hybrid curriculum over the course of their 9th and 10th grade year.

Lifetime Fitness – Elective

(Grades 10-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

The goal of this class is to provide each student with the fundamental skills, knowledge, and training needed to reach their individual fitness goals. The ultimate purpose of fitness training is to develop "functional strength" which will help individuals perform their best in their chosen activities and throughout their day. This course will also focus on nutrition with the intent of

fueling the body and mind for optimal performance. Additional areas covered will include the following: strength training, yoga, mindfulness, Crossfit, and Olympic lifting. Lifetime wellness activities such as canoeing, biking, and rock climbing may also be covered dependent on weather and equipment availability. A week's worth of classes may look like the following: Monday - strength training/Olympic lifting; Tuesday - classroom sessions on nutrition and basic physiology; Wednesday/Thursday - Yoga/Mindfulness activity or outdoor pursuit; Friday - Crossfit W.O.D.

Strength Training - Elective

(Grades 10-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

The emphasis in this course is on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting are all important components in this course. In addition, students will monitor and improve their fitness levels by participating in assessments throughout the semester.

MATHEMATICS

Department Director: Mrs. Alison Heltemes, 507-453-5000, Ext. 5058,
aheltemes@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Math Department strives to provide students with the arithmetic, algebraic, geometric, and statistical knowledge, skills and perseverance necessary for applying mathematical concepts and processes, both with and without technology, to solve problems academically and in life.

A student wishing to pursue a degree at a 4-year college should complete Algebra II at a minimum. Pre-calculus is recommended.

In math, with the material of the second semester being built on the material of the first semester, there is a separate grading policy. If a grade of "F" is earned the first semester, it is possible to obtain credit for the first semester by earning a "C" or better for the second semester. A "D-" will replace the "F" so credit is granted for both semesters. Placement of students into their first mathematics course is determined by their scores on an entrance placement test or teacher recommendation.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3.0

Students must successfully complete Algebra 2 or a higher level math course. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis with proper documentation. It is highly recommended that college-bound students complete 4 credits. The sequence listed below applies to students entering 9th grade in Algebra I; a student may enter 9th grade with more advanced placement, in which case their third required credit will be Algebra II+ or Pre-Calculus.

Required Mathematics Sequence

Algebra I

1.0 Credit

Geometry

1.0 Credit

Algebra II	1.0 Credit
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Elective Mathematics Courses

Algebra II +	1.0 Credit
Pre-Calculus	1.0 Credit
Statistics	1.0 Credit
AP Calculus AB (I)	1.0 Credit
AP Calculus BC (II)	1.0 Credit

Algebra I - Required

(Grades 9-10)	Year	1.0 Credit
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This course is designed to cover the standard topics of Algebra 1. Topics emphasize linear algebra and an introduction to polynomials, with a focus on quadratics. Students are carefully eased into word problems and develop a systematic approach based on the type of problem. There is constant review of all algebraic skills. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent on placement test.

Geometry – Required

(Grades 9-11)	Year	1.0 Credit
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Students will use properties of geometric shapes combined with algebra to discover unique relationships found in polygons. Theorems and postulates will be used to reason and create geometric proofs. Area and volume concepts will be expanded to include surface area and composite figures. Students will also explore Trigonometry. Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or equivalent on placement test.

Algebra II - Required

(Grades 9-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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Algebra 2 builds on sequential approaches to content and learning from preceding courses. Geometric and algebraic concepts are extended and connected to topics in discrete mathematics. Functions are developed through tabular and graphical approaches. Special emphasis is given to the concepts of systems of equations, probability, polynomials, and quadratics. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Prerequisite: Geometry or equivalent on placement exam. May be taken at the same time as Geometry with math teacher's recommendation.

Algebra II + (Formerly College Algebra)

(Grades 11-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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This course is for students who want to continue their math studies, yet struggle with some of the concepts in Algebra II. This course continues coverage of linear systems, quadratics, rational equations and radical equations. Time is spent on matrices and real world finances. This course covers some of the topics presented in a college level algebra course. This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Calculus or college level mathematics. Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II. *Students who have completed Pre-Calculus or a higher math course are not eligible to take Algebra II + unless recommended by a math teacher.*

Pre-Calculus (C2C MATH 1225)

(Grades 9-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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Pre-calculus is designed to increase students' knowledge about mathematical and logical modes of thinking and will provide students the skills necessary for the successful completion of calculus. Topics include polynomials and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometric functions of real numbers and angles; analytical trigonometry; polar coordinates and vectors; and sequences and series.

Students will be required to meet with the teacher before summer break to get materials to work on over the summer break.

Prerequisite: An Algebra II grade of B or higher. Exceptions may be granted based on teacher recommendation.

Statistics

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is intended for seniors interested in the fields of business, social science, natural science, mathematics, and the many other areas now requiring knowledge of probability and statistics. Statistical ethics, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and regression are the major topics covered in this course. Prerequisite: Algebra II, seniors only.

Calculus I (C2C MATH 2440)

(Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB – Restricted)

(Grades 10-12) Elective

Year

1.0 Credit

Differential and integral calculus of functions of a single variable.

This is a standard advanced placement AB Calculus course. It covers college-level material. The course covers both MN State College Southeast syllabus for Calculus II and the additional AP topics needed for the BC curriculum. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program. Recommended: Grade of “B” or better in Pre-Calculus or equivalent on placement exam. Exceptions may be granted based on teacher recommendation. This course may also be taken for C2C credit through MSC Southeast. See “Earning College Credit” on pages 6-7. All course and test accommodations must be approved by the College Board. Limit of 15 students per class.

Calculus II (C2C MATH 2445)

(Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC – Restricted)

(Grades 10-12) Elective

Year

1.0 Credit

Differential and integral calculus of functions of a single variable.

This is an advanced placement BC Calculus course. It covers college-level material. The course covers both MN State College Southeast syllabus for Calculus II and the additional AP topics needed for the BC curriculum. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program. Recommended: AP Calculus AB and teacher approval. This course may also be taken for C2C credit through MSC Southeast. See “Earning College Credit” on pages 6-7. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class.

MUSIC

Department Director: Mr. Andrew Meurer 507-453-5000, Ext. 5052, ameurer@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Schools Music Department prepares students in grades K-12 to be lifelong musicians, fostering acceptance, growth, and perseverance as students strive to share their musical gifts with others.

Required Credits for Graduation – 1.0 (Visual Arts, Choir, Band)

Band - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Band is a year long elective open to all students in grades 9-12. Participation in this course includes participation in Concert Band and small ensembles for all students. The band rehearses four (4) days per week for one period. Lessons, concerts, contests, and public performances are a required part of the course. The HS band typically performs in 3 concerts across the school year (December, March, May). The band also performs at a selection of athletic events across the year, but we work with students involved in sports and other activities to make a schedule that works for them. Schedules for all concerts, events, and rehearsals are given out on the first day of classes. Students without prior band experience should make special arrangements with the band director. Each student must play a yearly audition for ensemble and chair placement. Band is a performance course and attendance at all performances is required.

Chorus - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Chorus is a year long elective open to all students in grades 9-12. It consists of four basic aspects: building a unified choral tone, developing individual voices, improving music reading skills, and placing musical selections in a historical context. Lessons, concerts, contests, and public performances are a required part of the course. Chorus is a performance-based course; students must be present for all concerts, contests, and public performances. The HS choir typically performs in 3 concerts across the school year (December, March, May). Schedules for all concerts, events, and rehearsals are given out on the first day of classes.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Department Director: Steven McGlaun, 507-453-5055, smcglaun@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Religion Department is called to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care with the love of Christ. As expressed by Saint Pope John Paul II, "Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others...". We do this by engaging students on a personal and relational level with compassion, inviting them into experiences that mirror the call of Christ to love all and faithfully express the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Three fundamental aspects within our religion curricula are essential: academics, spiritual growth, and service. These elements are manifest in the following ways: students take four years of religion classes, engage in required service, and participate in an annual retreat.

Through course offerings, the Religion Department provides the academic information and foundation for each student to develop his/her faith-life. The Cotter Campus Ministry Program offers students opportunities and experiences that will help develop their personal spirituality and

enrich their appreciation of God's love and presence in his/her life. Service opportunities and requirements are currently directed by the Religion Department as well.

Circle of Grace

To ensure that every student learns and understands their intrinsic goodness, the *Circle of Grace*, a Diocese of Winona-Rochester curricular requirement, is a component of all religion classes. Students and teachers learn about their own sacredness, the sacredness of others, and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults (taken from the "Introduction to *Circle of Grace*.") Part of each grade level 7-12, each year.

Curriculum Requirements: Students are required to take a Religion class every semester.

Required Credits for Graduation = 4.0.

Religion 9:	1.0 Credit
Religion 10:	1.0 Credit
Religion 11:	1.0 Credit
Religion 12:	1.0 Credit

Religion 9: Introduction to Sacred Scripture – Required

(Grade 9)	Year	1.0 Credit
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The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. This will include such topics as Revelation, the development of Sacred Scripture, understanding of the Old Testament and its relationship to Christian beliefs and values, the historical and social context of both Testaments and an introduction to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God.

Religion 10: Paschal Mystery - Required

(Grade 10)	Semester	0.5 Credit
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This semester course delves into the New Testament and our understanding of the Paschal Mystery. We will address topics such as the Incarnation, the Passion, Christ's Resurrection and Ascension. The fall semester lays the groundwork for the spring semester where we explore the early Church, the Marks of the Church and Sacraments. The purpose of this course is to give students an in-depth exploration of our covenantal relationship with God, the saving work of Jesus and the continued movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Religion 10: The Church - Required

(Grade 10)	Semester	0.5 Credit
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The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that the Church is the living Body of Christ commissioned to be a witness to the Gospel in the world today. Students will be introduced to the fact that the Church is founded on Christ, established through the Apostles, and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Religion 11: Christian Morality: Our Response to God's Love – Required

(Grade 11)	Semester	0.5 Credit
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This course will focus on the development of virtue and character and moral decision-making. It will provide an opportunity to consider the value of the Christian view of life and living, with Jesus' command to love as its norm. Students are provided a method of moral decision making

that will help them continue in their formation of conscience and guide them in making moral and ethical decisions in their daily lives.

Religion 11: Social Justice: Responding to the Call of Jesus – Required

(Grade 11) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course will explore Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its relationship to Christian living. Students will focus on understanding the seven principles of CST and how they inform our response to the needs of all of God's children. This course will utilize Church documents and other relevant writings in order to understand CST and look at ways to address current issues.

Religion 12: World Religions - Required

(Grade 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course is an introductory survey of religious traditions. Given our world today where we are exposed to so many different cultures, studying the different religions provides for the student more insight into different cultures and thereby a better understanding of our global community. There is great wisdom in each of these faith expressions which, when examined respectfully, can enrich and deepen one's own faith understanding.

Religion 12: Christian Vocations: The Call of Christ – Required

(Grade 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls each person to live out their commitment in a specific lifestyle. In this course, students learn how the vocations of married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life are similar and how they differ. Students learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

Servant Leadership (Elective)

(Grades 10-12) Semester 0.5 Credit (Pass/Fail)

One of the main goals of the Campus Ministry department is to deepen the prayer and faith life of the Cotter community. The purpose of this course is to empower students to be disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today, to draw students into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. Students in this class will experience a rich combination of leadership training (leadership theories, communication, decision-making, prayer leadership, etc.) and practical application leading various campus ministry and other school-wide events. It is not necessary to be Catholic, but students must have an understanding and openness to Catholicism. Enrolled students should have an active prayer and faith life.

Prerequisites: Admission to this course will be dependent on Religion Department approval.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Department Director: Katie Bauer, 507-453-5000, Ext.5039, kbauer@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Science Department guides students to become informed stewards, creating a community of passionate and curious lifelong learners dedicated to fostering a healthier and more sustainable world through science and engineering education.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3.0 Credits

It is highly recommended that college-bound students complete 4 credits

- Intro to Physics 1.0 Credit
- Biology or AP Biology 1.0 Credit

The Third Credit Can Be Earned From Taking One of the Following Courses (Required)

- Chemistry 1.0 Credit
- Physics 1.0 Credit
- AP Physics 1.0 Credit

Intro to Physics - Required

(Grade 9) Year 1.0 Credit

The 9th grade physics course immerses students in the foundational aspects of physics, employing scientific and engineering methods, data analysis, and laboratory tools and techniques to investigate and connect to natural phenomena. Topics covered include Newtonian mechanics, energy and power, electricity and magnetism, as well as wave energy, sound, optics, and atomic forces.

Biology - Required

(Grade 10) Year 1.0 Credit

This is a comprehensive course designed to introduce the essential concepts of life. Topics will include biochemistry, cell functions, genetics and DNA, biodiversity, evolution, ecosystems, ecology, and human impact on the environment. Students will build an appreciation for life, gaining insights into both themselves and the awe-inspiring diversity of life on Earth.

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology

(Replaces Biology) Year 1.0 Credit

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology, a college-level course, enables students to more deeply explore the intricacies of biological science. Students will learn topics such as molecular and cellular biology, genetics, evolution, classification of living things, animal behavior, ecology, and human biology. During this course students will engage in the mandatory 8 AP labs written and approved by the College Board along with the rigorous learning objectives in each unit. At many universities, college credit will be awarded to a student scoring a 3 or higher on the cumulative standardized exam at the end of the course. Students are selected on the basis of test scores, previous science class performance, and teacher recommendations. Registration capacity: 16 students.

Chemistry - Required (May take Physics or AP Physics in place of Chemistry to satisfy the third year of science)

(Grades 10-12) Year 1.0 Credit

This course is designed to introduce the students to the basic principles of chemistry, and prepare them for entrance into other chemistry and science-related courses in college. Topics covered include experimental design, data analysis, properties of matter, atomic theory, electronic structure, periodicity, chemical bonds, molar relationships, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, kinetics, and acid-base chemistry. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture, collaborative learning groups, and laboratory activities. Students will leave this course having an understanding of the interactions of matter and be able to describe, explain and predict natural phenomena.

Physics - Required (May take Chemistry or AP Physics in place of Physics to satisfy the third year of science)
(Grades 11-12) Year 1.0 Credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of physics, and prepare them for entrance into other physics and science-related courses in college. This is a hands-on course with a laboratory component. Classical mechanics, including acceleration, forces, projectiles and energy, waves, sound and light, electricity, magnetism, and the origins of modern physics. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture, collaborative learning groups, and laboratory activities. Students will leave this course having an understanding of the interactions of objects and be able to describe, explain and predict natural phenomena.

Prerequisite: A passing grade of a B or better in Algebra I.

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics – Elective - Restricted (May take Chemistry or Physics in place of AP Physics to satisfy the third year of science)

(Grades 11-12) Year 1.0 Credit

This year-long class is designed to prepare the student to take the “AP Physics 1” exam. Topics include force: translational motion in one and two dimensions; torque; rotational motion; Newton’s Law of Gravitation; orbits of planets & satellites; work; energy; linear momentum; angular momentum; translational and static equilibrium; conservation of energy and momentum, simple harmonic Motion (simple pendulum and mass on a spring); and other topics as needed. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program.

Prerequisite: Completion or corequisite of Algebra 2 or College Algebra. GPA of 3.5. All course and test accommodations must be approved by the College Board. Students are selected on the basis of test scores, grades in Science 9 and Biology, and teacher recommendations. Registration capacity: 16 students.

Nutrition (C2C BIOL 1226) – Elective

(Grades 11-12) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course covers basic principles of nutrition and their relationship to human health and normal biological function. Students are exposed to current trends in nutrition, behaviors typical of a positive nutritional lifestyle, and a lab like experience to evaluate their own nutritional status. Topics covered include an introduction to the nutrients, digestive function and metabolism, the role of physical activity, dietary standards, proper diet planning, and nutrition related diseases.

Anatomy & Physiology I & II (C2C BIOL 2515/2516) – Elective

(Grades 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Human Anatomy and Physiology I introduces the structure and function of the human body with an emphasis on normal health. This course includes a review of cellular biology, cellular transport, cell reproduction and basic biochemistry. Topics covered include tissues, the integumentary system, skeletal system, articulations, muscular system, and nervous system.

Human Anatomy and Physiology II continues the study of the human body from Human Anatomy and Physiology I. This course includes principles of chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology as they relate to the study of normal body function. Topics covered include the endocrine system, cardiovascular system, immune system, respiratory system, urinary system, digestive system, and reproductive systems.

Certified Nursing Assistant Training (C2C HLTH 1098) – Elective

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

In Nursing Assistant Training, you will develop the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that are essential in providing care in long-term care facilities. To work as a nursing assistant, you must complete the nursing assistant training course and then [pass a test](#) to be placed on the National Registry. Students need to be 16 years of age by the end of the semester. This class requires approximately 60 hours of class time and 20 hours of supervised practical training. While we will try to include most of the hours into the school day, there may be a few required dates that happen over the weekend or after school. There will be an additional cost for student who wish to take the licensure test.

Health Care Field Experience

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Over the course of the semester, students participate in job shadows throughout various health fields, consisting of, but not limited to, at least 5 unique health departments at Winona Health. Students will also spend time discussing career topics related to the health field, conducting at least one informational interview, and attending guest speakers. This class is a hybrid class with ARC hours incorporated into the schedule. Students will be given time to work on other subjects at certain points during the semester. Scheduled time will be communicated at the beginning of the semester. Preference will be given to students that have taken the CNA class.

Cotter Engineering Program

Embark on a transformative journey to your future with the Cotter Engineering Program! Cotter Engineering is based on “Industry 4.0 Fundamentals”, this four-course program revolves around core concepts and technologies such as mechatronics, control systems and coding, robotics, and the internet of things (IIoT). Through a blend of interactive online courses and hands-on technical experiences with authentic engineering equipment, learners gain comprehensive insights. The curriculum ensures learners are well-prepared to earn industry-recognized credentials from the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA), solidifying their expertise in Industry 4.0 fundamentals. These courses will benefit your future no matter what level of engineering you want to pursue.

Engineering 1: Introduction to Mechatronics - Industry 4.0

(Grades 9 - 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course is crafted to introduce the foundational tools and processes of mechatronics

technology used in Industry 4.0. Topics covered include machine safety, dimensional measurement, mechanical power, basic electrical circuits, electrical control diagrams, and basic robot programming. Plus, students will have the opportunity to attain industry-recognized credentials, enhancing their future opportunities in STEM careers.

Engineering 2: Control Systems - Industry 4.0

(Grades 9 - 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course is crafted to guide you through the intricacies of mechatronics technology in Industry 4.0. Topics covered include manufacturing metrics, power efficiency, fluid force and frictions, basic material handling, PLC (programmed logic control, “sensors”) project development, PLC motor control, CNC machining, and PLC event sequencing. Plus, students will have the opportunity to attain industry-recognized credentials, enhancing their future opportunities in STEM careers.

Engineering 3 and 4 - Industry 4.0

Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year there will be an additional 2 Industry 4.0 Engineering classes offered to students.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Department Director: Ms. Elizabeth Stevenson, 507-453-5000, x5061,
estevenson@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Social Studies Department's underlying purpose is to prepare active, ethical citizens. By engaging with each other in open-minded, evidence-based conversation and writing at increasing levels of challenge, our students will be aware of the local and global world, appreciate the influences that shape all identities, and understand how to advocate for and contribute to the democratic ideals of our political system.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3.5

World History	1.0 Credit
Human Geography or AP Human Geography	0.5 Credit
Personal Finance	0.5 Credit
U.S. History or AP U.S. History	1.0 Credit
Political Science or AP U.S. Government and Politics	0.5 Credit
Economics	0.5 Credit

World History - Required

(Grade 9)

Year

1.0 Credit

In this course, students will explore the development of human societies and civilizations from prehistory to modern times. They will analyze how different parts of the world change over time, including the emergence and decline of political, economic, and social forms of organization.

Students will learn how to think like historians by analyzing different interpretations of historical events and building their own arguments about history by writing a thesis statement and supporting it with evidence from primary and secondary sources. By the end of this year-long course, students will be able to apply their knowledge of history to understand the modern world.

Personal Finance - Required

(Grades 10)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Understanding and feeling confident in managing personal finance is key to your future financial success. Following high school, most students become more financially independent and responsible for managing their money--and this one-semester class will give students the skills to make informed decisions about financial issues and develop a sense of financial security. Topics covered will include budgeting & money management, savings & investments, credit & debt management, buying decisions, taxes, and overall financial risk management.

Human Geography - Required (may substitute AP Human Geography)

(Grades 10)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course is designed to take an interdisciplinary approach to human geography. The objective is to relate human and physical geography to the economic, political, social, historical and cultural aspects of human activity. This course will provide the student with core knowledge about the world's geographic regions, patterns, and characteristics and relate that knowledge to current events in today's rapidly changing world. This course will also help students develop certain basic skills in geography. These include map reading, the interpretation of geographic charts and diagrams, utilizing geographic information systems and the acquisition of the technical vocabulary of geography. Students will explore their assigned region of the world through the lenses of population, land use, culture, and political/economic issues.

Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography -- (Replaces Human Geography)

(Grade 10)

Fall Semester

0.5 credit

In AP Human Geography, students study how geographical concepts can help explain and (hopefully) solve real-world problems. Students will work with a variety of maps, graphics, and written sources to analyze geospatial data. By the end of the fast-paced course, students will understand how human relationships with their environment have changed over time and how these changes affect both other communities and the physical environment. Additionally, students will analyze the human and physical boundaries created and crossed around the world. Units of focus include: the Nature of Geography, Population & Migration, Cultural Geography, Political Geography, Agriculture, Economic Geography and Urban Geography. The culmination of the course is the AP Human Geography exam in May. A successful score on this exam will earn a student college credit at many universities. Students should have strong reading and writing skills. The course will continue to advance these skills through essays, presentations, and interactive discussions/simulations. Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 9 with a B or better and be recommended by their 9th grade Social Studies teacher. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class.

United States History – Required (may substitute AP U.S. History)

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

How do events from the 1800s continue to impact the US over two hundred years later? This course will follow United States History through thematic units from the Revolution Era to present. We will develop the vocabulary necessary to understand and discuss a topic, use

analytical skills through discussions and writings, develop reading comprehension skills through carefully selected primary and secondary sources, enhance research and presentation skills and learn to discuss and debate concepts that have a lasting impact on the United States and its role in your world and the world. As part of the course, students will complete several research projects and papers, as well as lead and participate in class discussion.

U.S. History: 1865 to Present & U.S. History to 1865 (C2C HIST 1108 & HIST 1110)

(Advanced Placement (AP) United States History – Replaces United States History - Restricted)

HIST 1108 is a history of the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States to 1865. This class will discuss the development of the United States and the interactions of different peoples and groups. Even more importantly, this course will offer historical perspectives into the formation of today's society as we discuss how political, social, economic, cultural, and technological changes have impacted both the past and the present. The objectives of HIST 1110 will be to give the student a broader and deeper understanding of American history from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the present day. Even more importantly, this course will offer historical perspectives into the formation of today's society as we discuss how political, social, economic, cultural, and technological changes have impacted both the past and the present.

The purpose of the AP United States History course is to offer a first-year college-level course to high school students. This course may also be taken for C2C credit through MSC Southeast. See "Earning College Credit" on pages 6-7. Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 10 with a B or better and be recommended by their 10th grade Social Studies teacher. Students must meet with the instructor before summer vacation to pick up summer course materials. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard.

Economics – Required

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Economics drives virtually every part of our lives, and the forces that drive economics are the focus of this course. Students will be introduced to microeconomics, the study of personal or business economic decisions, and macroeconomics, the decisions made by government or international actors, and evaluate the effect these decisions have on their lives. Students will also study personal finance, including financial planning and budgeting, spending, saving, investing, and borrowing.

Political Science – Required (may substitute AP United States Government)

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

In this course students will gain a strong understanding of the structure and function of the United States government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. They will analyze the creation of the United States government, including the political philosophies and historical situations that shaped the U.S. Constitution. Students will examine how the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution has changed over time. They will study how the United States government works at the local, state, and federal levels, including the political process, elections and voting. They will evaluate how the United States government interacts with other nations and international organizations.

Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. Government and Politics – (PACC PS102)

(Replaces Political Science)

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 credit

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project. The culmination of the course is the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May. A successful score on this exam will earn a student college credit at many universities. Students should have strong reading and writing skills. The course will continue to advance these skills through essays, presentations, and interactive discussions/simulations. Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 11 with a B or better and be recommended by their 11th grade Social Studies teacher. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class.

Your Brain on Psych: An Introduction to Normal and Abnormal Psychology – Elective

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

An introduction to psychology allows students to explore scientific, ethical, and social aspects of psychology. We will study how the brain works, how psychologists and scientists study the brain and behavior, why humans act as they act, how sleep, drugs and hypnosis affect the brain, and how to recognize and treat different brain disorders. Whether you are interested in a career in psychology, studying in college, wondering why you or your friends are how you are, curious how you can improve relationships with others, or just want to learn something new, this course is right for you!

Who are We?: An Introduction to Sociology – Elective

(Offered every other year in fall 2024, 2026)

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Do you have a family? Friends? Enemies? How do you get along with them? Have you ever experienced peer pressure? Do you do what social media tells you to? Why is that? In this course we will study how people interact in small and large groups and what shapes our role in society. We will use popular sources such as books, movies, TV shows, ads, etc to understand how our identities, values, and behaviors have been and continue to be shaped by social factors, as well as conduct our own sociological research.

Street Law: What it Means to be on the Wrong Side of the Law – Elective

(Offered every other school year in 2023, 2025)

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Pulled over for a burnt out tail light? Or maybe speeding? Sorry - there's no such thing as a Get Out of Jail Free card, but knowledge of the law and how it works will keep you out of jail in the first place! This course explores issues in law, diving deep into the criminal justice system, processes, and players. With guest speaker options ranging from judges to police officers to attorneys to crime lab technicians, you will have the opportunity to answer all the questions (and then some) you may have about the law and what it means in your life!

Introduction to Business

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course provides students the opportunity to explore the different areas of the Business and Marketing world. Students will learn what it takes to be successful in the areas of Management, Administration, Entrepreneurship, Sales, Marketing, Accounting, and Finance. Students will explore the different types of business ownership, be taught the foundations for creating their own business, and have the opportunity to apply what they have learned through real life applications.

VISUAL ARTS

Department Director: Mr. Andrew Marsolek 507-453-5000, Ext. 5381,
amarsolek@cotterschools.org

The Cotter Visual Arts Department invites students to foster and share their God-given artistic potential and respect the creative efforts of others.

Required Credits for Graduation – 1.0 (Visual Arts, Choir, Band)

INTRODUCTORY ART COURSES

Introduction to Art - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Develop creative thinking skills and apply those ideas to creating works of art. Learning will include understanding of the art elements as they are used in various art media including digital softwares. Students will have an opportunity to create as well as respond to and appreciate works of art in a critical manner.

Photography – Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Create digital photography using knowledge of the techniques, genres and tools of photography. Using DSLR cameras complete various projects such as traditional portraiture, long exposure light painting, commercial product photography and more. In addition to photo capture, use Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom's tools to bring your work to a higher quality.
 Software: Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom.

Art History - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

This course will be designed to give students a broad-strokes understanding of the history of art through the recorded ages. Students will learn how to look at art not only as decoration, but for its functionality and place in history. We will touch on the writings, philosophy and music associated with various periods of art, ranging from prehistoric cave art to modern photography and architecture. Students will see the evolution of human civilization through art movements guided by the philosophies of the times, and how each new movement emerges from the previous one.

Digital Media and Marketing (Cross-Listed)

(Grades 9 - 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

Develop a unique blend of creative and technical skills, while exploring the intersection of

technology, design, and marketing, covering photo and video editing, website and social content creation, and interactive branding. Students explore ethical dimensions of digital marketing, and showcase their skills through hands-on projects and a final portfolio.

Animation – Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Extend your art skills through the dimension of time! Over this course, you will continue practicing skills of drawing and design while growing your knowledge of storyboarding, keyframing and digital rendering. Projects in the course will include thaumatropes, flipbooks, claymation, motion graphics, rotoscoping, GIFs, flash animation and more.
Software: Adobe Illustrator, Flash, After Effects.

ADVANCED ART COURSES

Introduction to Art is required to register for an advanced art course. Students can take an introductory art course in the fall semester and an advanced art course in the spring semester.

Advanced Drawing – Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Enhance creativity and increase artistic confidence by learning to see the way artists see. Learn techniques in value drawing, gestures, contour drawing, figures, portraits, and landscapes.
Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Painting - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Develop and improve your traditional painting skills: learn the color wheel and how to use color properties, color schemes, brush textures, design elements and materials to your advantage to create effective and eye-catching acrylic paintings on canvas. Explore original ideas, painting styles and subject matters. Prerequisite: Intro to Art.

Printmaking /Sculpture – Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Explore a variety of means used to transfer an image with different printmaking techniques including silkscreen printing, monoprints, relief prints and collagraphs. Construct 3-dimensional art with clay, wire sculpture, plaster and paper. Enrollment is limited to 15 students.
Prerequisite: Intro to Art

WORLD LANGUAGE

Department Director: Ms. Elizabeth Stevenson, 507-453-5000, x5061,
estevenson@cotterschools.org

The Cotter World Language Department prepares students to build a better world by promoting and instilling the value of diverse worldviews and equipping them with language skills to communicate and engage in their local and global communities.

To be successful, students are expected to be engaged and focused participants using the target language increasingly for communication as they progress to more advanced levels. A solid foundation in English grammar will facilitate the transition to a second language. The grade levels indicated for each course are approximate guidelines. The language teacher together with the counseling department will assess and decide individual student needs and placement to ensure the best environment for academic success. If a student should fail the first semester, he or she needs to repeat that semester the following year in order to receive full credit.

Required Credits for Graduation – 2.0 (2 credits must be within the same world language)

Spanish I - Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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This novice class is designed for beginners. It introduces students to the fundamental concepts of Spanish vocabulary, phonetics, culture, and grammar. Through a variety of activities, students will begin to acquire the skills of listening and reading comprehension, conversation, and writing. The geography of the Hispanic world, especially South and Central America, will be an integral part of the topics covered. Listening and oral participation is a key skill of this level with communication in the target language being the ultimate goal. No prerequisite.

Spanish II – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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This level introduces students to the novice-high concepts of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture. The students will continue to develop skills for conversation, listening comprehension, reading and writing. The culture of the Hispanic world will be an integral part of the topics covered and will provide the source for vocabulary. Increased spontaneous participation and use of the target language in class are expected and necessary. Students will acquire additional thematic vocabulary and the use of additional verb tenses.

Spanish III – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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In this level we review the simple tenses and complete the compound tenses. Students will further develop their communication skills, both verbal and written. More advanced concepts of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture will be explored. The culture of the Hispanic world, especially simple stories and myths, will be an integral part of the topics covered. Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in Spanish II or teacher's approval.

Spanish IV - Elective

(Grades 10 - 12)	Year	1.0 Credit
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This course is designed for a level 3-4 (B2+) learner in the Spanish language looking to continue their Spanish language skills for an entire year which will result in mastering Spanish level IV. The learner will study various topics and themes in the Spanish-speaking world specific to different countries, while also studying and practicing advanced verb tenses, grammar, and vocabulary. The student should be able to speak, read, write and comprehend at a level B1/B2 Spanish by the end of this course. Students will be graded according to the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners: interpersonal communication, presentational communication and interpretive communication.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in Spanish III or teacher's approval.

German I – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Offered every other school year in 2024, 2026)

(Grades 9 - 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

German is a language of artists, engineers, and international business, with many cultural ties to the Minnesota-Wisconsin area. German I is a novice class that will introduce students to the German-speaking culture, vocabulary, grammar, and phonetics. Students will begin to read and write in German as well as develop reading and listening comprehension skills. We will learn about German Americans, family, geography, school, and several other topics. No prerequisite.

German II – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Offered every other school year in 2025, 2027)

(Grades 10 - 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

In German II we dive even deeper into the German language, using past, present, and future tense to discuss art, shop for a Traumhaus (dreamhouse), and plan the perfect German Christmas. We will practice in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students are encouraged to use German increasingly as the language of classroom conversation. As in German I, active participation, speaking effort in German and listening focus will greatly contribute to student success in this course. There will also be the option to take the German National Exam with awards for extraordinary achievement.

2024-2025 COTTER SCHOOLS GRADES 7-8 ACADEMIC PROGRAM

To complete grades 7-8 at Cotter Schools, each student must complete the required number of credits of academic study.

Community Service Requirement: A foundational principle embraced at Cotter Schools is that each person is intrinsically good and is loved by God. This principle motivates us to serve others. The Community Service component of the Cotter educational experience allows students to see first-hand this truth of our humanity. Cotter students have much to offer, and the community service program provides creative channels for students to serve and give of themselves for the betterment of their community.

Each 7th-8th Grade student is required to complete 10 hours of community service each year, with a minimum of 5 hours per semester. Additionally, each student must complete at least 2 different service experiences within those 10 hours.

GRADE 7

Religion

Language Arts

American History

Life Science/Design and Modeling

Mathematics

Physical Education

Art

Electives: (Choose two) Band, Choir, Spanish 1, Learning Center

GRADE 8

Religion

Language Arts

World Geography

Earth Science / Automation and Robotics

Mathematics

Physical Education & Health and Wellness Education

Electives: (Choose two) Band, Choir, Introduction to CAD and Computer Science, Spanish 2, Learning Center

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Cotter English Department is dedicated to fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that empowers students to become critical thinkers, effective listeners and communicators, and lifelong learners. Grounded in a passion for literature, language, and creativity, our mission is to cultivate a deep appreciation for the written word and to equip students with the skills necessary for success in school and life.

Language Arts - Grade 7

Year

Required

Seventh grade English emphasizes interpersonal communication, critical reading, and personal writing skills. Students have ongoing and consistent practice in sentence structure, including grammar and spelling. Vocabulary expansion is integrated into the curriculum throughout the year. In addition, using various models, students will focus their study of literature on plot, character development, setting, point of view, figurative speech, and theme. Students will practice writing a sequence of events, predicting outcomes and making inferences. Emphasis is placed on appreciation, enjoyment, understanding, critical thinking and development of stimulating reading and writing skills and habits. Poetry and reading a novel are integrated into the curriculum.

Language Arts - Grade 8

Year

Required

This course develops strong critical thinking skills through the composition of well-structured expository, descriptive, and persuasive paragraphs. This class also reviews and builds on previously taught grammar and usage skills, then moves to incorporate increasingly complex patterns in students' writing. The writing process -- including an emphasis on revision -- and audience awareness exercises enhance students' abilities to tailor their voices in appropriate genres for various purposes. In addition, students read and analyze short stories, poetry, non-fiction, and Native American biographies. Word processing and the Internet will be components of individual units.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Cotter Science Department guides students to become informed stewards, creating a community of passionate and curious lifelong learners dedicated to fostering a healthier and more sustainable world through science, technology, and engineering education.

Life Science - Grade 7

Semester

Required

Life Science is designed to introduce 7th graders to the study of living things. In this class we will discover how living things relate to one another and to their surroundings. We will begin our study of Life Science with the cell and its functions and build through the five kingdoms to plants and animals. Along the way we will learn about the processes that organisms exhibit and how different organisms perform these processes. Most importantly we will be relating Life Science to ourselves and the world around us.

Earth Science - Grade 8

Semester

Required

Earth Science is the study of the planet Earth and its place in space. In this class, all eighth graders will be introduced to the Earth Science branches of geology, meteorology, astronomy, oceanography and Environmental Science and will learn how these branches are connected.

Intro to Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Science - Grade 8 Year Elective

Students will work with various software to explore the fundamentals of computer aided design, including 2D sketching, 3D modeling, and the design process. This course will also cover topics related to Computer Science such as introductory coding, web page design, and elements of video game design. By the end of this course students will have had the opportunity to use technologies that include, but are not limited to, 3D printing, electronic and robotic programming, Scratch Coding, Web Page Coding, and basic Python programming. This course is meant to serve as an introduction to topics that they will see both in high school as well as throughout their lives.

MATHEMATICS

The Cotter Math Department strives to provide students with the arithmetic, algebraic, geometric, and statistical knowledge, skills and perseverance necessary for applying mathematical concepts and processes, both with and without technology, to solve problems academically and in life. In addition, the mathematics department envisions every student functioning at a level appropriate for his or her capacity to learn and to ensure each class includes challenges and successes for every student. Placement of students into their first mathematics course is determined by their scores on an entrance placement test, teacher recommendation, and/or grades in sixth grade math.

Basic Math - Grade 7	Year	Placement Required
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General math is a transition course for students who have completed sixth grade math but are not ready for Pre-Algebra. Basic mathematical concepts and skills are reviewed and reinforced. This course focuses on the following skills: fractions, decimals, percents and ratios; perimeter, circumference, area and volume; exponents, scientific notation and signed numbers. Students receive consistent guided practice with problem-solving techniques through word problems.

Pre Algebra - Grade 7 and 8	Year	Placement Required
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This course is designed to be a bridge between Arithmetic and Algebraic thinking. This course aims to move from concrete thinking to abstract thinking. The major concepts in algebraic thinking will be introduced. An emphasis is placed on problem-solving, reasoning skills, and using algebra in the real world. During the course, students will also strengthen their arithmetic skills.

Algebra 1 – Grade 7 and 8	Year	Placement Required
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This course is designed to cover the standard topics of Algebra. Students are carefully eased into word problems and develop a systematic approach based on the type of problem. There is constant review of all algebraic skills. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent on placement test.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Cotter Social Studies Department's underlying purpose is to prepare active, ethical citizens. By engaging with each other in open-minded, evidence-based conversation and writing at increasing levels of challenge, our students will be aware of the local and global world, appreciate the influences that shape all identities, and understand how to advocate for and contribute to the democratic ideals of our political system.

United States History - Grade 7

Year

Required

This course is designed to cover American history from colonial times to the Korean War. In addition to acquiring knowledge of the history of the United States, an emphasis will be placed on developing social studies skills including analyzing primary and secondary documents, understanding graphics, evaluating cause and effect relationships, writing, and reading maps. A primary goal of this course is to aid students in developing critical thinking skills and appreciating how they fit into the overall story that is U.S. history.

World Geography - Grade 8

Year

Required

This course is intended to be a survey of the cultures and geography of all areas of the earth. The analysis of maps, the ability to organize information, interpret graphics, accurately place countries on a world map, and appreciation of all cultures will be emphasized. Students will be asked to consider how land affects the way in which ideas, social structures, and global trends are developed and intertwined.

RELIGION

The Cotter Religion Department is called to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care with the love of Christ. As expressed by Saint Pope John Paul II, "Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others...". We do this by engaging students on a personal and relational level with compassion, inviting them into experiences that mirror the call of Christ to love all and faithfully express the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Religion - Grade 7

Year

Required

Life of Jesus

Who do you say that I am? This course takes a deeper look into the mystery and life of Jesus Christ. The fully human and fully divine nature of Jesus Christ is a major focus. Students will explore the connections between Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity will be explored. In addition students will grow in their understanding of Sacred Scripture. A desired outcome of this course is for students to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.

Religion - Grade 8

Year

Required

Liturgy and Sacraments

This course focuses on understanding the Catholic Mass and the sacraments celebrated in the Catholic Church. Students learn to identify and explain basic parts of the Mass and come to a deeper understanding of why Catholics do what they do at Mass. Each of the seven sacramental celebrations are studied with a special focus on the meaning of their rituals, symbols, gestures and prayers. Students will also plan and lead class prayer and grow in their ability to locate Scripture passages.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The Cotter World Language Department prepares students to build a better world by promoting and instilling the value of diverse worldviews and equipping them with language skills to communicate and engage in their local and global communities.

*Spanish I and II are equivalent to the high school level courses and, together, can count toward 1.0 credit of the 2.0 credit high school world language requirement. The second credit must be fulfilled by Spanish III at the high school level. Upon satisfactory completion of Spanish II in Grade 8, students will register for Spanish III in Grade 9.

Spanish I - Elective

(Grades 7 or Grade 8)

Year

1.0 Credit

This novice class is designed for beginners. It introduces students to the fundamental concepts of Spanish vocabulary, phonetics, culture, and grammar. Through a variety of activities, students will begin to acquire the skills of listening and reading comprehension, conversation, and writing. The geography of the Hispanic world, especially South and Central America, will be an integral part of the topics covered. Listening and oral participation is a key skill of this level with communication in the target language being the ultimate goal. This course is equivalent to Spanish I at the high school level. No prerequisite.

Spanish II – Elective (may be used to fulfill the high school World Language requirement)

(Grades 8)

Year

1.0 Credit

This level introduces students to the novice-high concepts of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture. The students will continue to develop skills for conversation, listening comprehension, reading and writing. The culture of the Hispanic world will be an integral part of the topics covered and will provide the source for vocabulary. Increased spontaneous participation and use of the target language in class are expected and necessary. Students will acquire additional thematic vocabulary and the use of additional verb tenses. This course is equivalent to Spanish II at the high school level. Prerequisite: Spanish I.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

The Cotter Health and Physical Education Department strives to enthusiastically energize and respectfully challenge students through inclusive, community filled physical activity while fostering lifelong health and wellness decisions.

Physical Education - Grade 7

Semester

Required

Physical Education/Health is a vital component in the development of a student's physical, mental, and social well-being. Through this semester-long course, students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of health and fitness-related skills/activities that will provide enjoyable experiences for lifelong physical fitness. Students will receive instruction in proper exercise techniques and practices, good nutritional habits, and basic anatomy. Additionally, students will be exposed to the rules and strategies of various fitness activities all while participating in individual skill practice and modified games/competitions.

Health/Physical Education - Grade 8

Year

Required

This year-long course will provide students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions while incorporating the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of health. In some form, this course will also address the six major categories of risk behaviors that teens face today as identified by the United States Center for Disease Control. Additionally, students will be exposed to the rules and strategies of various fitness activities all while participating in individual skill practice and modified games/competitions.

LEARNING CENTER

Mrs. Grace Welle – 7th and 8th Grade Learning Center Coordinator, 453-5000 Ext. 5015,
grwelle@cotterschools.org

Learning Center – Grades 7 and 8**Year****Elective**

The Learning Center class provides academic assistance in various academic areas. It also provides students with guidance in the areas of study skills, organization, writing skills, and other areas as needed. Students can elect this class or may be referred by faculty, parents, and/or administration.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Students are encouraged to participate in the visual and performing arts as an essential element of a well-rounded education and personal growth. Through the arts, students are exposed to varied interests, knowledge, and experiences, thereby becoming strong and productive adult members of society.

Art - Grade 7

Semester

Required

This course is an introduction to the basic principles and elements of art. Emphasis will be placed on hands-on learning through a variety of media and art experiences. In addition, this class will incorporate art appreciation and technology-enhanced activities and assignments.

Band - Grades 7 and 8

Year

Elective

Band is a year long elective open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Students without prior band experience should make special arrangements with the band director at the beginning of the school year if they are interested in taking part in this class. Individual lessons are required of every band member, and each student must play a yearly audition for chair placement. Grades will be based on regular lesson attendance, rehearsals, and participation. Band is a performance course; therefore, students must be present for all concerts, contests, and public performances. The Junior High band typically performs in 3 concerts across the school year (December, March, May). Junior High Jazz Band is an optional ensemble that meets once per week.

Choir - Grades 7 and 8

Year

Elective

Choir is a year long elective open to all 7th and 8th grade students. The junior high choir will provide opportunities to learn, prepare, and present programs in the area of vocal music. Vocal techniques and tone production are studied in various styles of music, ranging from early sacred to popular selections. Lessons, concerts, and public performances are a required part of the course. Choir is a performance-based course; therefore, students must be present for concerts and public performances. The Junior High choir typically performs in 3 concerts across the school year (December, March, May). Schedules for all concerts, events, and rehearsals are given out on the first day of classes.